

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, and 22 are amended herein. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17, 18, 21, 22, and 24-29 are currently pending.

Claim 5, which was objected to in the Office Action dated June 23, 2006, has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 24, and 29.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, and 22 have been amended to specify that the transmission schedule is configured such that only one of said submaster node and plurality of slave nodes is permitted to transmit at a time. As amended, these claims are submitted as allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 5 and 12.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (408) 399-5608.

Respectfully submitted,



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